

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01

NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /093 R

DRAFTED BY EA/RA:WLGALLAGHER:AP

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

EA/RA - RJMARTENS

EA:OEZURHELLEN

S/P - NARMACOST

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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O P 191459Z AUG 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196461

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO

SUBJECT: DISSOLUTION OF SEATO

REF: CANBERRA 5459; BANGKOK 16965; BANGKOK 17079

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO HAVING SEATO SECRETARIAT
DRAW UP A PLAN FOR THE PHASE OUT OF THE SEATO ORGANIZATION
FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE SEATO COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW YORK.

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WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE HARDPRESSED TO

COME UP WITH A PROPOSAL ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE THAT MAKES ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR STAGING DOWN SEATO AND TRANSFERRING FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS THOSE THAILAND WISHES CONTINUED, TO OTHER ENTITIES.

2. WE BELIEVE THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE "PHASE OUT" WORK WILL HAVE TO COME AFTER THE SEATO COUNCIL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER, AND THAT THE DECISION TO TERMINATE THE ORGANIZATION WILL MOST LIKELY OCCUR AT THE 1976 SEATO COUNCIL MEETING. ANY MOVE TO TERMINATE THE ORGANIZATION AT THE UPCOMING SEPTEMBER MEETING -- WHICH WE SUSPECT IS THE AUSTRALIAN INTENTION -- WE WOULD VIEW AS PRECIPITOUS AND UNWISE. SUCH A MOVE SHOULD BE OPPOSED UNLESS IT HAS THE UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT OF THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES. SIMILARLY WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY MOVE TO ELIMINATE FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS, MILITARY EXERCISES AND INTELLIGENCE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A FORMAL DECISION IS MADE BY THE COUNCIL MEMBERS TO TERMINATE THE SEATO ORGANIZATION.

3. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO SUPPORT THE THAI POSITION AS STATED IN BANGKOK 17079 FOR GRADUAL PHASE OUT OF SEATO ORGANIZATION OVER PERIOD OF TIME. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE BEGUN PROCESS OF ALTERING ARRANGEMENTS SO THAT THE SEATO COUNCIL MEETING CAN BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24. PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS, YOU MAY ACQUIESCE TO SEPTEMBER 24 AS THE COUNCIL MEETING DATE IF A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL REPS SO DECIDE. KISSINGER

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